

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on May 03, 2011.

Claims 2-10 are pending in the present application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on May 03, 2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's argument with respect to the 35 USC 112 rejections with regard to claims 2-10 that that it is well known to those skilled in the art that all IEEE 802.11 standard versions are based on the same association process, thus Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are not indefinite (see page 3 of the remarks), examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner respectfully recognizes that "802.11" covers numerous different systems/ frequencies therefore open ended. Hence, one may not determine whether the claim covers frequency hopping WLAN, IR, MIMO, Mesh/ad-hoc...ISM or UNI band, let alone future amendments, therefore respectfully reiterates that the claims are indefinite.

In addition, the 35 U.S.C 101 rejections raised are maintained since Applicant did not provide a response to the rejections previously.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 2-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 10, the limitation "IEEE 802.11" does not recite which "802.11" protocol is being claimed *per se*, hence the claim is indefinite.

Regarding claims 2-9, they include the same issues explained above for parent claim 10, and are rejected based on being dependent on claim 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 2-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter as follows:

Claim 10, recites a "bridge module", and a "link management module".

Applicant's originally filed specification in fig. 3 is explicitly described as representing the different "software modules" of a station (see page 3, lines 28-30 and page 5, lines 7-30 of the specification), thus the claimed device can be broadly interpreted as computer program *per se*. In addition, the term "module" is broad enough to include sections of a computer program *per se*, therefore claim 10 is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding claims 2-9, they include the same issues explained above for parent claim 10, and are rejected based on being dependent on claim 10.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANTHONY ADDY whose telephone number is (571)272-7795. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamran Afshar can be reached on 571-272-7796. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Anthony S Addy/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2617